

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, MX, US

SUBJECT: COMMENTS BY GOM OFFICIALS ON US-MEXICO RELATIONS

1. MEXICAN AMBASSADOR DE OLLOQUI; JOSE PINTADO, PRESIDENT, BANCO COMERCIAL; AND JULIO FAESLER, DIRECTOR GENERAL, MEXICAN INSTITUTE FOR FOREIGN TRADE PARTICIPATED IN A CONFERENCE FOR CORPORATION EXECUTIVES ON QUOTE WHAT TO EXPECT IN LATIN AMERICA IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS. UNQUOTE. CONFERENCE WAS CO-SPONSORED BY JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, THE INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE AND COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAS. AFTERNOON SESSION, MARCH 25, WAS DEVOTED TO MEXICO.

2. IN HIS REMARKS, AMBASSADOR DE OLLOQUI STATED THAT US-MEXICO RELATIONS ARE NOT PRESENTLY AT A PEAK DUE TO DIFFERENCES OVER THE CUBA PROBLEM, THE PANAMA CANAL, AND ECONOMIC ISSUES BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT CLIMATE FOR DIALOGUE IS EXCELLENT AND THAT

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SLOGANS, BY BOTH SIDES, SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY DEEDS.

3. IN QUESTION ON WHETHER MEXICO INTENDED TO JOIN OPEC, THE AMBASSADOR RESPONDED THAT, AS PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA ANNOUNCED, IT IS MEXICO'S POLICY TO SELL PETROLEUM TO WHOEVER WISHES TO PURCHASE THE COMMODITY AND AT WORLD

MARKET PRICES. HE COMMENTED THAT SINCE MEXICO HAS THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS, THERE IS NO NEED FOR MEXICO TO CHANGE ITS POLICY. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT MEXICO SYMPATHIZES WITH OPEC AND SHOULD MEXICO BECOME A MAJOR EXPORTING NATION IN FUTURE, IT MAY CONSIDER JOINING OPEC.

4. IN CONJUNCTION WITH HIS COMMENTS ON MEXICO'S EXPORT DRIVE FAESLER MENTIONED THAT US COMPANIES ARE PRESENTLY EXHIBITING IN A MEXICAN TRADE FAIR IN CUBA ADDING THAT US FIRMS BASED IN MEXICO FIRST CHECKED WITH THEIR HOME OFFICES.

5. IN RESPONSE TO WHETHER MEXICO'S ATTITUDE ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT WILL CHANGE NOW THAT IT IS BECOMING OIL RICH, AMBASSADOR DE OLLOQUI STATED THAT MEXICO STILL WELCOMES FOREIGN INVESTMENT UNDER THE TERMS OF ITS INVESTMENT LAW AND THAT THE MEXICAN INVESTMENT COMMISSION WILL CONTINUE TO BE FLEXIBLE IN ADMINISTERING THE LAW.

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